(e) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, the losses are mainly due to excess manpower in the organisation, fall in the sales of controlled commodities like palmolein and controlled cloth, non-recovery of amounts involved in credit sales and attachment of its bank account by ESI authorities on account of a contingent liability arising out of the decision that the Super Bazar employees are covered under the ESI ACT. In order to over come these problems, the management of the Super Bazar has taken several measures, which include closing of unviable branches of Super Bazar, streamlining its administrative functioning, and opening up of procurement centres in respect of agricultural and other commodities like rice, wheat and woollen garments in the States of M.P. and Punjab.

Kerosene Oil Quota to U.P.

315. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.P. is getting Kerosene Oil quota less than the national average;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the quota for U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The per capita availability of kerosene in U.P. during 1997-98 was 8.47 KG/annum which was below the national average of 11.41 KG/annum.

(b) and (c) Allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e., past years supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level, SKO is a deficit product and more than 40% of our requirements are met by imports. Due to constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the full demand of the States. A very high increase has been given in the allocation of kerosene in 1998-99 to those States having per capita availability of kerosene much lower than the national average. Accordingly, an increase of 18.01% has been made in the allocation of kerosene for Uttar Pradesh for the year 1998-99, compared to the 8.58% increase at the country level. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 212261 MTs. The per capita availability of kerosene in the State has increased to 10 KG/person/annum in 1998-99 from 8.47 KG/person/annum in 1997-98.

Wheat Storage in FCI Godowns

316. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether imported wheat has created storage problem in the FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for import when we have buffer stock of grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir;

(b) Does not arise; and

(c) Due to untimely rains during the sowing season, the Ministry of Agriculture had initially estimated that production of wheat during the current Rabi Season was likely to be 64.51 million tonnes as against 69.27 million tonnes last year. Government, therefore, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99 to augment its availability in the country, for keeping prices under control.

Additional quota of levy sugar to Maharashtra

317. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CUNSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from Maharashtra Government to continue the allotment of yearly additional quota of levy sugar of 9014 MTs in future; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under current